

Serial No.: 09/432,820
Filing Date: 2 November 1999

Please amend claim 24 and claim 25 as follows:

24. A method of detecting the presence of antibodies to virulent Mycobacterium in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- combining said sample with a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, a homolog thereof or an antigenic determinant thereof; and
detecting antibodies bound to said protein.
25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said virulent Mycobacterium is selected from the group consisting of *M. bovis*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. leprae*, *M. africanum*, *M. microti*, *M. avium*, *M. intracellulare* and *M. scrofulaceum*.

Please add the following new claim:

50. (New) A method of detecting the presence of antibodies to a virulent Mycobacterium in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- combining said sample with a purified protein of a mycobacterium other than *M. bovis* BCG, wherein said protein
is a homolog of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2;
is an immunogenic membrane-associated protein of said mycobacterium; and
is encoded by DNA which is capable of hybridizing with a DNA probe having the complete sequence represented in SEQ ID NO: 1 under conditions where, on a Southern blot, said probe will identify single 3.25 kb BamHI fragments from *M. bovis* BCG and *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv DNA, but will not hybridize with BamHI-digested DNA from either *M. smegmatis* or *M. vaccae*.